



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

GET INVOLVED

- RARS General Membership meeting: **Second Tuesday** of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night except Saturday @ 8 p.m. on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net: Saturdays @ 8:00 PM on 146.64.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the **third Tuesday** of each month.
- On the **fourth Tuesday** of every month, in-person meeting at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.



PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Interested in helping? Visit
<https://www.rars.org/public-service.php>

frequently for our ham public service schedule.

RARS General Meeting

Date: February 10, 2026

Topic1: NC QSO Party, Marty Young, W4MY

Topic 2: RARS club station for the NC QSO party, Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: In-Person and Zoom Meeting at 7:30 PM, [More info at RARS.org](https://www.rars.org)

RARS In Person Gathering

Date: February 24, 2026

Where: Ridge Road Baptist Church

Time: 7:00 PM

In-person Gathering at Ridge Road Baptist Church where there will be project tables, demos, snacks, and socializing.

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Regular dues for licensed amateurs are \$18 per year. (From July 1 through June 30.) Additional licensed immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed full-time students and licensed seniors 60 and over are \$12 per year. Unlicensed individuals may become associate members for \$9 per year. Applications for membership are available from the treasurer or on the RARS web site.

<https://www.rars.org>

EXciter

The EXciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The EXciter welcomes articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's EXciter is the Saturday that is ten days before the general meeting. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

The views expressed in the EXciter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, editor (editor@rars.org)

President's Message for February 2026

I was going to write about the start of the hamfest season, with [HamCation](#) in Orlando coming up next week, and of course our own [RARSfest](#) at the beginning of April, but then I watched the livestream of the Conn Magnet Elementary School [ARISS](#) contact this morning (Friday, January 30, as I write this), and I thought, wow, what a fantastic example of what an amateur radio club should be doing. So I decided to write about that, instead.

From time to time, RARS receives requests to support ARISS contacts between students at local schools and astronauts on the ISS. We are happy to do it, but it usually involves members disassembling their own stations to bring their equipment to the schools. So, John K4EB, Brantley K4CBW, and Carl W8WZ submitted an application on RARS's behalf to the Amateur Radio Digital Communications foundation ([ARDC](#)) for a grant to purchase the equipment necessary to support ARISS contacts.

The ARDC approved the grant, and John et al. constructed a "Space Communications Outreach Portable Ground Station," or SCOPG, complete with an Icom IC-9700, Az/El rotator, M2 LEO Pack 2m/70cm antenna array, power supply, pre-amp, and the necessary coax cables. (It's worth noting that this is the second successful grant application written by Carl and Brantley. The first was for the VHF/UHF and HF stations currently in our [Equipment Loan Program](#).)

The first contact with the new equipment took place at the Conn Magnet Elementary School on the morning of Friday, January 30. About a dozen students were able to speak with astronaut Chris Williams [KJ5GEW](#) via amateur radio.

The event was livestreamed over the Internet, thanks to Devin KN4FVH. In case you missed it, you can watch [a recording of the livestream](#). It's worth watching the replay, especially if you didn't see it live. The actual contact starts at about 32:50 into the video. The kids were amazing. They were engaged and clearly excited to be there. They had some great questions. Not surprisingly, Astronaut Williams did a fantastic job. I found the experience quite moving.

Editors Note: YouTube has closed captioning. To enable, Click on CC. Some of audio is hard to understand, CC helps.

President's Message for February 2026, continued

What a positive portrayal of amateur radio, not to mention great publicity for RARS! There we were, facilitating conversations between students and an astronaut about 250 miles overhead in space! That, to me, is magic.

Carl W8WZ sent the ARRL a press release in advance, which you can read [here](#). The Amateur Radio Newline covered the event in its January 30 release. You can listen to that story [here](#). We even get a shoutout before the station ID break. (You can listen to the [Amateur Radio Newline](#) every Sunday night at 8:15 PM on the RARS 146.64 repeater.)

You will find more information in an article by Mike K3LOE and pictures from the event at [page 32](#) in this edition of the EXciter. If you want to know more about the behind-the-scenes activities, check out the posts in the #satellites channel in the Interests group on the [RARS Discord server](#). (If you're not already a member of our Discord server, you can join [here](#).)

Congratulations to the entire team for a fantastic outreach event: John K4EB, Brantley K4CBW, Carl W8WZ, Mike K3LOE, Devin KN4FVH, and Tom N4TL!

Next month, I hope to have a report from my first visit to HamCation in Orlando. I know of a few other RARS members who are going. Post in the #hamfests channel in the Interests group on our Discord server if you're planning to go, too!

73,

Tony

K1OC

January 13, 2026 RARS meeting

President Tony O'Connor, K1OC, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded Zoom participants of a few notes about using Zoom. See the minutes for all the details during the meeting on [page 24](#).



Tony O'Connor, K1OC, starting the meeting



Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR
RARSfest info



Marty Young, W4MY
NC QSO party

January 13, 2026 RARS meeting, continued

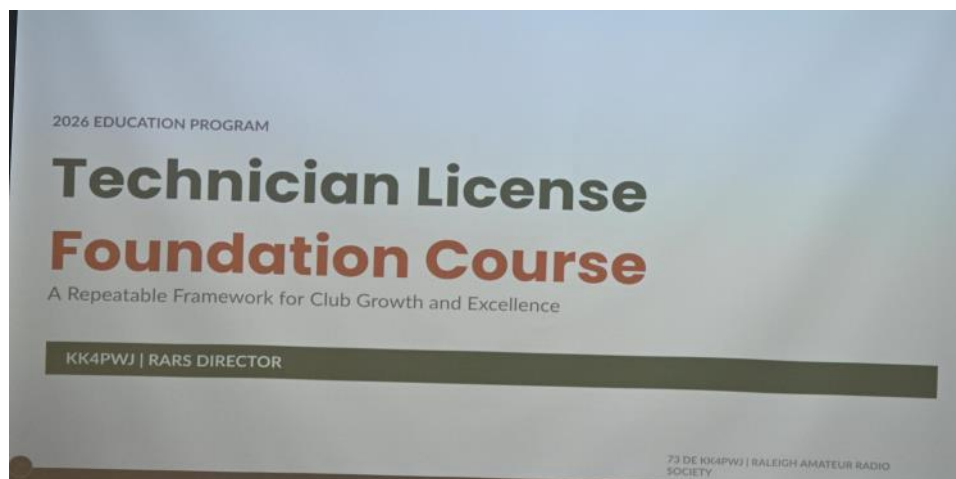


Door prize winners, left to right.
Richard Kroeger, N1FUA; Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW; Jackson Wood



Brad Bazemore, KK4PWJ, explaining the RARS education Developments

January 13, 2026 RARS meeting, continued



One of the slides during the presentation



Conner Wood (14); Kevin Wood, KR4IQM; Jackson Wood (11)
Conner is waiting for his technician call to arrive. Jackson is studying for the test.
Kevin joined RARS last month.

January 13, 2026 RARS meeting, continued

Full Name	Call Sign	Full Name	Call Sign
Andrew Brown	KR4HRA	Ken Latchum	AD4GX
Barry Wheeler	K9IUT	Kevin Wood	KR4IQM
Brad Bazemore	KK4PWJ	Kim Johnson	KM4TH
Charles Swindell	WR4DCM	Marty Young	W4MY
Connor Wood	KR4IYA	MATTHEW RIELL	K4MAN
Dale Jones	WA4JCK	Michael Johnson	KZ4LY
David Lee	KQ4VHU	Michael Joondeph	N1JDW
Dennis Mason	WZ0Q	Nancy Torborg	KB2TNR
Devin Hedge	KN4FVH	Nick Baker	W4NAB
Elliot Johnson	KR4BUA	Ralph Selmont	NC4RS
Fin Gold	NC4FG	Richard Kroeger	N1FUA
Jackson Wood	No Call	Scott Peters	KR4HGG
Jeremy Lindsley	K2HJX	Susan Langley-Jones	WA4AKB
Jesse Simpson	KR4HYW	Tadd Torborg	KA2DEW
Joe Haggerty	N4BJH	Tom Lewis	N4TL
Joe Spratt	W4DAZ	Tony O'Connor	K1OC
John Boling	NC4TI	Tony O'Connor III	KR4DLO
John Hollowell	K4JAH	Waldorf	KN4UUZ
Josh Kurland	KR4BTW	Wilbur Goss	WD4RDT
Julie McCrary	KT4JR		

39 people signed in at the meeting

See the next page for the people on zoom.

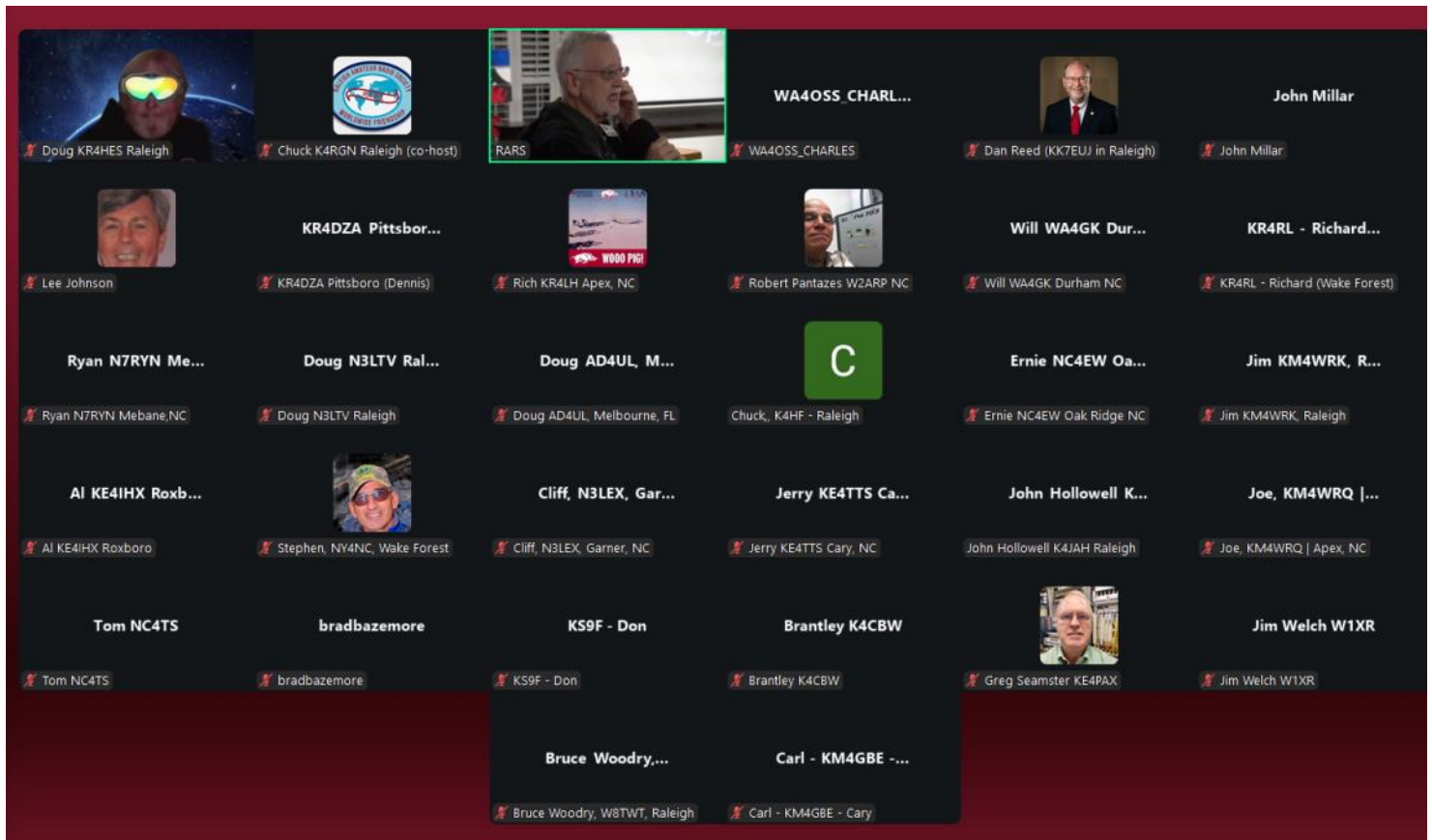
show-and-tell at May 12 general membership meeting

For the May 12 general membership meeting, we would like to bring back an old favorite at RARS meetings of the past: show-and-tell. Members will be invited to bring in their projects, large or small, and give either a brief demonstration or a brief talk about them.

I need someone to coordinate the signups and act as emcee for the program. Please email me at k4rgn@outlook.com.

Chuck Till

January 13, 2026 RARS meeting, continued



Zoom screen capture during the meeting.

39 People attended in person plus 30 on zoom.

69 total

January 2026 RARS Net Report

31 2m nets: 396 checkins, 779 minutes duration

4 6m nets: 54 checkins, 91 minutes duration

Julie Royster, KT4JR,
RARS net manager

RARS MONTHLY SUPPER, IHOP Restaurant JANUARY 20, 2026



Front to back

Dennis Mason, WZ0Q

Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW

Nancy Torborg, KB2TNR

Bob Chew, K4YXM

Robert Chew

Robert McCoy

Andrea Buttine



Denny Oestreich, KO4IBL

At the end of the table.

16 people attended

Back to front

Ralph Selmont, NC4RS

Chris Buttine KC1GN

David Crawford, KF4VXJ

Tony O'Connor, K1OC

Ken Latchum, AD4GX

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF

Dale Jones, WA4JCK

Tom Lewis, N4TL taking the pictures

RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the third Tuesday of each month. We meet at the iHop restaurant, 6:30PM. Its on the corner of 6 forks road and Sawmill RD. [7471 Six Forks Rd.](#)

Monthly In-Person RARS Gathering, January 27, 2026

Ridge Road Baptist Church, at [2011 Ridge Road, Raleigh](#)

Due to the roads being icy, the meeting was canceled.

Deepest Sympathies

A transfer of \$50 has been made to the RARS / Dick Bitner Youth Education fund in memory of Frank Weiss KY4W (10/11/1926 – 12/23/2025)

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/raleigh-nc/frank-weiss-12679664>



January 2016 RARS meeting

Frank Weiss KY4W gave a entertaining and informative presentation on putting up a tower and antennas in 1981.



HAMFEST HOTLINE – FEBRUARY 2026

We are 2 months away from RARSfest, The Raleigh Hamfest!

When: Saturday, April 4, 2026

Where: Jim Graham Building, the NC State Fairgrounds

Hours: 8 am – 3 pm

Admission: Individual \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door

Flea Market Tables \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door

Tickets will be available for purchase online starting January 30, 2026. Credit/debit cards, Apple/Google Pay accepted. Note: No ticket(s) will be mailed to you. Your ticket(s) and wristband(s) will be held for you at “Will Call”. An admission ticket is required for a Flea Market table purchase, and wristbands are required for entry/re-entry.

Some folks would say that hamfest tickets are a GREAT Valentine’s gift; you can count the wristband as jewelry...



Tickets will be available for purchase (cash/credit/debit) at the following RARS meetings (weather permitting):

February 10 (General Meeting)

February 24 (The Gathering)

March 10 (General Meeting)

March 24 (The Gathering)

ALL tickets purchased before March 28 will be eligible for a special “Early Bird” prize drawing.

Hamfest Hotline—February 2026, continued

ALL registered volunteers receive a commemorative T-shirt, free admission (not eligible for prize drawings), and they will be entered in a special “Volunteers Only” prize drawing.

You can sign up to volunteer [here](#).

We are still in need of a Crew Chief to oversee our AV Wranglers. The job entails managing (possibly recruiting) the Volunteers for that position and requires some emailing before the event and possibly some reminding on the day of. This year, to improve the experience of both Presenters and Attendees, we’re stationing a Staffer to ensure their laptop and projector are ready to go! Please email ntorborg@mac.com if you’re interested in the Chief position.

As usual, RARSfest will be offering:

License Testing

Forums, including SKYWARN training

Commercial dealers HRO, Ham Badgers, Quicksilver Radio, Rocket Machine Worx, Diamond Antenna, Reliance Antenna, The Wireman, Spooltenna, Tarheel Designs!

Static vehicle displays

Satellite demonstrations

Consignment sales (**for RARSfest volunteers only**)

FREE parking

On-site concessions with expanded offerings!

Follow RARSfest on [Facebook](#)

Join the [email](#) list for updates!

[Share this event](#) with any/EVERY ham you know!



RARS Member Birthdays

Pete	WB4R	02/
Mike	N4IQA	02/01
Maury	WE4EE	02/02
Jonathan	KN4EVA	02/02
Sue	W2GHK	02/02
Barbie	N4YRO	02/02
Selene	KG4RMT	02/03
LOS	AF0AA	02/03
Lillian	KC4AYH	02/04
David	K4DBZ	02/04
Grady	KJ4RZU	02/05
Artie	KC2JFU	02/05
Nick	KQ4VAE	02/06
Kevin	K0KRK	02/07
Larry	N4LEW	02/07
Bryan	KJ4GWZ	02/08
Patrick	K3PMH	02/09
Cliff	KA7NSU	02/10
Stan	W4AG	02/10
Dennis	WZ0Q	02/13
Tom	N4TL	02/13
Tony	K1OC	02/14
Kathy	N4KLW	02/15
Roy	KT4EM	02/15
Josh	KR4BTW	02/16
Dave	KK4ELT	02/16
Jim	W2PAU	02/16
Dennis	KR4DZA	02/17
Wallace	KO4SKA	02/17
Howard	N4KYW	02/19
Steve	WB2VKL	02/19
Nadia	KO4ADV	02/21

RARS Member Birthdays

Joe	N1LVN	02/21
Rohn	KD4HCT	02/21
Pat	KQ4QWK	02/21
Pam	KO4YAR	02/23
Ralph	NC4RS	02/23
Pedro	KN4MJR	02/23
Sylvia	KG6ZUY	02/24
Joe	W4TTO	02/25
Carl	W8WZ	02/26
Bob	WX4MMM	02/26
Bruce	W8TWT	02/27
Kathleen	KM4CSF	02/28

RARS New Members

James Thompson	KQ4QWX
Ellie Hartung	KR4FNZ
Nate Stinard	KR4FCN
Joe Abshier	KR4JDY
Kat Abshier	

CALLING ALL TARHEEL HAMS!



NORTH CAROLINA

QSO PARTY

RADIO CONTEST



FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA!



Sunday March 1, 2026

10 AM - 8 PM



SPONSORED BY THE
RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO
SOCIETY

North Carolina QSO Party 2026

RARS is the sponsor of the North Carolina QSO Party (NCQP) again for 2026. We're in our 13th year leading it. Things are continuing in fine fashion.

NCQP is, essentially, a radio contest where participants get credit for working North Carolina hams. Participants compete for plaques and certificates of operating achievement in recognition of their radio operating ability. We hams set our own reasons for participating, some to hone emergency radio operating skills, some for the thrill of managing a pile-up of callers on the air, and others just for the pure competitive spirit. We can't leave out those who just like to set up a radio and talk to folks on the air. In all cases, the main objective is for everyone to have fun!

This is an open event to all hams throughout the world. Tarheel hams take this opportunity to put out the invitation to work us on the air at the prescribed time. Those QSOs take place on the HF bands using voice, CW, and digital modes. We North Carolina hams are known for our hospitable, polite, and relaxed operating style allowing everyone else to put North Carolina in their log.

There are many options, depending on your particular situation and interest, in which to participate. New hams might best get involved with the "RARS club operation." It's a station specifically set up for someone to learn and observe and find mentoring. On-the-job- training so to speak. Others can just get on the air from their main ham shack at home. Some go out POTA or Field Day style portable to counties where no, or few, other hams reside to "activate" it. And, crazy as it sounds, some hams take to their mobile HF station and drive back and forth, around in circles, within NC working QSOs! Everyone is welcome to operate in the style they like best.

Why do we do this? Well, my passion as chairman is driven by my love of radio and connecting with other like-minded hams in no better place but on the air. A state QSO party is the perfect mix of friendly competition we all enjoy, comradery, and outreach of our famous North Carolina hospitality via amateur radio.

One important piece of information, don't want to forget, are the timeline particulars. 10:00 AM EST on Sunday, March 1, 2026. Its 10 hours until the end at 8:00 PM that same day. (That's 3/1/26 1500Z – 3/2/26 0100Z) We hope you will get on the air with us!

Be sure to check out the website www.ncqsoparty.org for rules, operating helps, and links to information and past results. The YouTube video link to a three part presentation about the ins and outs of NCQP and is helpful especially to those new to NCQP. There's a link also from the RARS website homepage. Many RARS members are on the Discord channel as well as the Facebook groups page. Many ways to learn about NCQP and get information.

We encourage everyone to get on the air and light up North Carolina!

Very 73 Marty, W4MY
RARS NC QSO Party Chairman

Come out for the RARS station for NC QSO Party

Tadd KA2DEW and Nancy KB2TNR (aka The Torborgs) are hosting a party! We're setting up four HF radios and many antennas to play radio all day Sunday, March 1, 2026. We'll be operating the NC QSO Party with the RARS W4DW callsign, representing RARS in the contest. We'll be entertaining, setting up, tearing down, and operating from 9 AM until 9 PM EST.

We have room for 4 operators, 2 loggers (possible 5th station for GOTA purposes), and a living room with 5 comfortable chairs (extra chairs as needed) for social time. Cookies/ /soda are likely. At some point, we'll be facilitating take-out orders (pay your own) for lunch (Jersey Mike's) and possibly dinner.

Talk-in on 444.525.

The station:

We're putting together 4 or 5 stations and we're still gathering and borrowing equipment:

- At least four [Yaesu FTDX10](#) radios. W4TTX Bob is bringing his, I have one, and the club will provide two more.
- We have 2 HamKey straight keys and two Bencher paddles.
- We have a 75/80m BALUN-fed dipole at 45feet, an Alpha Delta 10-40m fan dipole at 30 feet, and two [Spooltenna](#) end-fed antennas (10-40m).
- We have 3 laptops and a desktop PC, so far.
- We have the RARS field-day bandpass filters
- We have hundreds of feet of RG214 coax

We still need headsets, foot pedals, two more laptops, digital mode software/hardware and testing, enthusiastic hams.

The location:

KB2TNR/KA2DEW are in north Raleigh near Creedmore Road, south of i540. There is on-street parking available. See attached diagram. Our street is not a through street, so there isn't much traffic.

It is ideal to park so that people coming *into* the neighborhood don't get blocked. Park on the outbound side of the street(s) and make sure no one can back into you when exiting their driveway. I think there is room for 20 cars within 100 yards of our house.

We have the KA2DEW ham shack with two 8' tables upstairs, and a library table downstairs in Nancy's office that can seat 8 people for meals. We'll put two operators in the ham shack and two operators plus loggers (4 people) downstairs in the office.

What we need

We still need headsets, foot pedals, two more laptops.

Ideally, we want a dedicated digital station on FT8 or other. We'd like to have a conversation before the event, probably on Discord, about how and when to operate and on what band. But much depends on what we get working on the day of. KA2DEW is available, on 444.525 PL82.5 RARS Bayleaf Repeater, most days from 11 am until 7 pm

We'd like to have an antenna party and practice event just after Noon Saturday February 21, the weekend before the contest, and maybe again Saturday February 28, the day before the Sunday NCQP event. Please be in touch.

Who can come?

Anybody who is a ham is invited, and any guest who can come and go unsupervised (no children unattended). The house is not equipped for mobility devices. No smoking on the property. No pets/animals.

We have a long hair cat so beware if you have cat allergies.

We don't think we'll have an overcrowding issue, but we'll address that if it happens. We have 10 hours of contest with 4 radios, so 40 operating hours to fill!

The Contest and the Rules:

Our station will be operating as a regular Wake County participant, and we'll be submitting logs. We're trying to put the club station on the air on as many bands and for as much of the contest as possible. RARS is the sponsoring agency, so we want to make contacts and with as many of the testers as possible. However, we won't compete for a win in any category. With 4 or more stations on the air at the same time, we can fulfill our goal of being reached, but there is no competitive option by contest rules.

Our other goal for the party is to show the ham radio community how we can have fun while being technically excellent with more-or-less pedestrian equipment (suburban location, antennas in trees, etc.). We can meet more people face-to-face and build camaraderie in our hobby.

Please come and help RARS' participation highly visible at the NCQSO Party.

Sign up for radio time?

We're hoping that with four radios to operate, we won't be seriously crowded out. No sign-up is planned. If you have specific requests, contact us before the contest. Please join the conversation on the RARS **Discord** to help us set up and get everything we need to operate.

Contact [Tadd](#) or [Nancy](#) at their QRZ email addresses and on RARS Discord. Reach Tadd KA2DEW afternoons and early evening on the 444.525 RARS repeater (note: +split and 82.5 PL tone requirement)

73s de KA2DEW and KB2TNR



**NC QSO Party 2026
RARS special event station
hosted by KB2TNR & KA2DEW
2700 Salisbury Plain, Raleigh
talk-in 444.525 RARS repeater**

Digital TV broadcasters in Wake County

By Chuck Till, K4RGN

Part II

In last month's EXciter, I gave an overview of ATSC 1.0 and 3.0 for over-the-air digital television broadcasts. In this part II, I will go through the ATSC 1.0 transmissions available in the Raleigh area. I will do this by display channel. For the sake of brevity I will omit the lower power stations that you might not be able to receive at your home. All transmitters are in Garner unless otherwise indicated.

4.1: primary WUNC-TV (PBS). High resolution available on two physical channels: 20 (Terrells Mountain west of Chapel Hill) and 19 (Garner). Why two physical channels? If you live in Raleigh, your Yagi is probably aimed at Garner where most of the TV transmitters are. For this reason, WUNC-TV operates a reduced-power transmitter in Garner with a highly directional pattern toward Raleigh.

4.2, 4.3, and 4.4: subchannels from WUNC-TV in low resolution on physical channels 20 and 19.

5.1: primary WRAL-TV (NBC) in high resolution on physical channel 17.

5.2 through 5.4: subchannels from WRAL-TV in low resolution on physical channel 17.

11.1: primary WTVD (ABC) in high resolution on physical channel 9. This is high VHF, not UHF.

11.2 through 11.4: subchannels from WTVD in low resolution on physical channel 9.

17.1: primary WNCN (CBS) in high resolution on physical channel 8. This is high VHF, not UHF.

17.2 through 17.4: subchannels from WNCN in low resolution on physical channel 8.

22.1: primary WLFL (CW) in intermediate resolution on physical channel 18.

22.2 and 22.3: subchannels from WLFL in low resolution on physical channel 18.

28.1: primary WRDC in intermediate resolution on physical channel 18. Note that this is actually being transmitted by WLFL because WRDC's own transmitter has been given over to ATSC 3.0.

28.2: subchannel from WRDC in low resolution on physical channel 8. This is actually being transmitted by WNCN.

28.3: subchannel from WRDC in low resolution on physical channel 9. This is actually being transmitted by WTVD.

Digital TV broadcasters in Wake County, continued

40.1: primary WUVC (Univision) in intermediate resolution on physical channel 22. The transmitter is in Broadway, which may be outside of the main lobe of your directional Yagi if you've aimed it at Garner.

40.2 through 40.8: subchannels from WUVC in intermediate or low resolution on physical channel 22.

50.1: primary WRAZ (Fox) in intermediate resolution on physical channel 15. Sorry, no Carolina Panthers football in high resolution on Fox.

50.2 through 50.4: subchannels from WRAZ in intermediate or low resolution on physical channel 15.

Next month, I will describe the current state of ATSC 3.0 signals in the Raleigh area.

FCC Makes changes to the 60-Meter Amateur Band

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order that will change 60 meters. That band has been five frequencies for CW, Digital and SSB. After February 13, there will four of the original frequencies available for our use. Also anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz. That small band is limited to 9.15 watts ERP. At the time that I am writing this, the ARRL band chart shows the original 60 meter frequencies. Hopefully after February 13 the chart will be updated. Hambands4_Color_17x11,

https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Regulatory/Band%20Chart/Hambands4_Color_17x11.pdf

The firmware for many transceivers will need to be updated for this change.

73 Tom, N4TL

W1AW Portable America250 WAS

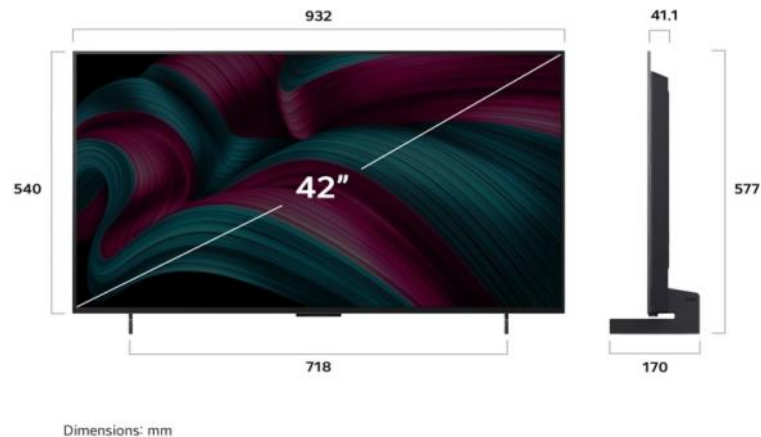
The ARRL is making a special WAS certificate for America's 250 birthday.

[Click here for information](#)

[This link has the W1AW portable schedule](#)

Your old TV has a new job and home!

Needed for RARSfest!



Did you upgrade your home theater over Christmas or to get ready for “The Big Game”? RARSfest needs TVs for both prize and announcement displays. We had GREAT success using televisions to run the prize displays at RARSfest last year!

We want to add MORE so we can additionally display:

- Forum schedules
- Door Prize Sponsors
- Map of Flea Market Sellers and Commercial Dealers

We need at *least* 4 TVs; one died in use last year.

We are looking for **donations** of TVs.

Requirements:

- Must WORK; clear, legible, HD/4K
- Minimum 42"
- Must be LCD (light and easy to store)
- Must have remote (to program)
- Must have HDMI to (connect to a Raspberry Pi)

73 Nancy Torborg ntorborg@mac.com

RARS Classifieds

Copied from <https://www.rars.org/classifieds.php>

The items below were listed within the last 30 days on the RARS website.
Check the RARS Classified List on the RARS website regularly for new items.

Wanted Kenwood hand Mic/8 Pin round connector

Posted January 31st, 2026 by: [WZ0Q](#)

Contact: wz0q@outlook.com

Looking for a hand Mic for a Kenwood mobile

8 Pin round connector MC43/or/MC48B mic

919-413-5998 or email me at

wz0q@outlook.com

Dennis

Antenna (Rotor & Controller) Hy-gain T2X Tail Twister

Posted January 27th, 2026 by: [AD4GX](#)

Contact: kalatchum@att.net

I have a Hi-Gain T2X tail twister antenna rotor & Controller that the rotor has been completely Refurbished and ready to be used! Price is \$500 (These rotors new sell for over \$1000. You won't be disappointed! Rotor comes with a controller! This is a absolutely unreal deal if you looking for a antenna rotor! This final price is firm! I've already reduced price to the bottom! It's actually worth a lot more than my asking price!

Looking for NOS (New Old Stock) Radio Shack Blister Pack Parts

Posted January 27th, 2026 by: [W4MY](#)

Contact: w4my@reagan.com

Looking for NOS (New Old Stock) Radio Shack Blister Pack Parts. Doesn't matter what they are, just have to be in the original hanging card. Price tag would be nice, but not required. Parts in a clear bag with card stapled to the top also. If you want to part with them, let me know. Radio Shack and their associated brands only please. Thanks Marty W4MY

FS: Yaesu FTdx-5000 with SM5000 Station Monitor

Posted January 23rd, 2026 by: [W4BOH](#)

Contact: infomet@embarqmail.com

Yaesu FTdx-5000 with SM5000 station monitor. 160 – 6 meters, 200 watts SSB, CW, FM and 50 watts AM. This equipment is in excellent condition and always in a non-smoking environment. Comes in original boxes with all manuals. Pictures available on request. Suggest pickup or reasonable distance meet due to 52lb combined weight. Asking \$1900.00.

RARS Classifieds continued

Tubes wanted

Posted January 19th, 2026 by: [KO4SKA](#)

Contact: wallace.austin@outlook.com

I've got a friend looking for 3CX400A7 or 8874 tubes. Let me know if you have any and I'll put you in touch with him.

Thanks,

Wallace KO4SKA

MFJ - 989C 3KW SWR/Watt meter

Posted January 16th, 2026 by: [N4IZE](#)

Contact: thoswan@att.net

In very good condition. A couple of scratches. Fully functionable. Instruction manual included made from the internet. Built in 300W dummy load. Cross needle SWR/Wattmeter for easy tune up and power measurement. I am selling as I have not needed it in years. Time to move it.

A visual & more info : <https://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamtune/1332c.html>

Price \$200.00 cash.

Thomas Swanson, N4IZE I am on QRZ.

In north Raleigh.

Xiegu G90 HF Radio

Posted January 10th, 2026 by: [W4BMX](#)

Contact: tonylaszlo@hotmail.com

Only a few months old. Barely used. Comes with Upgrade VFO dial, stand, Xiegu CE-19 Data Interface and some items I 3D printed for it.

\$375.

Pics available upon request.

You are welcome to test at my QTH as well.

Regards,

W4BMX

919 961-1813.

RARS Classifieds continued

40 foot mast, Yaesu Mic, 40 feet of metal Camo Poles, Grundig Satellit 800 World Receiver.

Posted January 8th, 2026 by: [KQ4ICK](#)

Contact: garrydouglassmurray@gmail.com

Hello!

I have a telescopic heavy 40 foot steel antenna mast (sturdy, locking type) that is great for mounting pretty much any type of antenna and raising it easily. It locks the sections any height you like and is self grounding. \$150

I have a MD-100A8x for Yaesu with active filtering for tone control. It can be R45 or the 8 pin connector, or both! Like new in the box. \$100

I have 10 4 foot metal Camo Poles with the sack and tie off rings and bases for portability and mounting of antennas. \$100

I have a Grundig Satellit 800 Millennium World Receiver made buy Drake/Grundig in excellent condition! A very nice quality, excellent operating radio with the original operating book. \$150

Thanks for looking! Garry; 919-859-2980

Agilent E4402B Spectrum Analyzer/Communications Tester

Posted January 5th, 2026 by: [NC4FG](#)

Contact: nc4fgfin@gmail.com

The club was donated lab quality Spectrum Analyzers. We've sold many of these so far. We still have a few good ones available.

The donated value was \$1,000.

\$700 is a good deal.

\$500 is a steal.

Get yours for \$500.

All proceeds go to RARS. [Link to testing video](#)

Contact me by email or Discord DM to coordinate a local demo and purchase.

Anytone HT and NanoVNAs

Posted January 5th, 2026 by: NC4FG

Contact: [NC4FG](#)

RARS Classifieds continued

nc4fgfin@gmail.com

Anytone AT-D878UV II Plus Transceiver

144/430MHz Digital and Analog

Bluetooth and GPS

Does APRS and DMR and includes many accessories.

Full details in this [Google Doc](#)

Paid over \$300 and barely used.

Price: \$220

NanoVNA-F V2 Vector Network Analyzer

4.3" screen, metal case, test loads, adapters

Configured for Ham band testing

Price: \$60

Small-screen NanoVNA

Test loads, charging cable

Price: \$20

Serious inquiries by email or Discord DM.

Estate Items

Posted January 5th, 2026 by: NC4FG

Contact: [NC4FG](#)

nc4fgfin@gmail.com

Many items from several estates. 100% of proceeds go to RARS.

Radios:

- Kenwood TH-F6 HT, charger, mic, spare battery: \$150
- Icom IC-R30 Handheld Receiver: \$400
- County Comm GP-7 Handheld Receiver with many accessories: \$50
- Hammarlund SP-600 JX-17 (Rare) broadband receiver: \$250
- Johnson Viking II and VFO: \$100

Much more! Take a look at this [Google Sheet](#)

Serious inquiries by email or Discord DM.

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

January 6, 2026
7:00 PM on Zoom

- 1) Call to Order – Tony O’Connor K1OC
- 2) Quorum Call – Josh Kurland KR4BTW confirmed there was a quorum. Board members present were: Tony O’Connor K1OC, Chuck Till K4RGN, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Josh Kurland KR4BTW,, Brad Bazemore KK4PWJ, John Hollowell K4JAH, Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Tom Lewis N4TL, Nancy Torborg KB2TNR, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Marty Young W4MY, Richard Hall KR4LH , Will Gwaltney WA4GK, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW, Ryan Reed N7RYN and Fin Gold NC4FG.
- 3) President O’Connor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2025 Board Meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Awards Committee - Bob W4TTX has volunteered to serve as the chair of the awards committee.
 - b) NC QSO Party Club Station Status - Tadd KA2DEW and Nancy KB2TNR have volunteered to host at their house. Tadd expects to have between 4 to 5 HF stations.
 - c) Technician Class Status - Brad KK4PWJ has developed a syllabus and is gathering volunteers. The date and time of the classes still need to be worked out with the Red Cross.
 - d) A/V Equipment Status - John K4JAH and Josh KR4BTW proposed the purchase of a PolyStudio X50 “Zoom Room” Video Bar.
 - e) By-Laws Amendments - Tony K1OC discussed the benefits of proposing by-law changes in a surgical way. The first priority will be to change the notification requirement from mail to email.
- 5) New Business
 - a) VE Testing at *Every* Gathering - Richard KR4LH says VE’s are open to holding test sessions at every Gathering, with some exceptions on major holidays.
 - b) Travis Russell KN4WJL 2025 NC Ham Radio Exhibit at the State Fair has requested a donation for his out of pocket expenses. \$300 from the education budget will be allocated to Travis, and discussions for preallocating a budget for the 2026 event will be tabled until the formal budget meeting in June.
 - c) Dick Bitner Fund - Tony K1OC is looking for ideas for spending on youth education. Tadd KA2DEW suggested a dedicated repeater just for kids.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

- d) Tony K1OC is planning on decommissioning rarsboard-l by March 31, 2026. Members should be reached using the Discord server.

6) Officer's Reports

- a) Vice-President's Report – Chuck Till K4RGN, Programs are booked through May, including a Show and Tell night.
- b) Treasurer's Report – Greg Seamster KE4PAX, RARS currently has 522 members including 14 who are not licensed, making the quorum count requirement 51 members. 100 members failed to renew their membership. There were 9 new members since the last meeting.
- c) Secretary's Report – Josh Kurland KR4BTW, The Minutes are up to date.

7) Committee Reports:

- a) Net Manager Julie Royster KT4JR
Nets are continuing as usual.
- b) Public Service Director Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX
No report given.
- c) Education Director Brad Bazemore KK4PWJ
Preparing to present this year's education program at the club meeting next week.
- d) FM Repeater Chair John Hollowell K4JAH
Nothing to report.
- e) Club License Trustees Bob Starkenburg W4TTX
Nothing to report.
- f) EXciter Editor Tom Lewis N4TL
The due date for input for the EXciter is changing from 10 days to 9 days. The past 12 issues have been submitted to the ARRL "Year of the Club" contest, and Tom is looking for help writing a 500 word essay.
- g) RARSfest Chair Nancy Torborg KB2TNR
CONFIRMED dealers We are now allowing Commercial Dealers to pay through Wix. We have OPEN lead positions: Prize/Info Booth; Security; AV Wrangler.
- h) Food Service Chair OPEN
- i) ARRL Liaison Chuck Littlewood K4HF
RARS club information has been updated.

RARS Board of Directors Meeting minutes continued

j) NC QSO Party Chair Marty Young W4MY

The QSO Party is fully sponsored and set for Sunday March 1st.

k) Field Day Chair Marty Young W4MY *pro tem*

RARS will hold Field Day at the Police club again this year following the same setup.
Marty is looking for team leaders to run the stations.

l) RARS VE Coordinators Richard Hall KR4LH

Nothing further to report.

m) RARS Webmaster Will Gwaltney WA4GK

The website is up and Will has received all the credentials needed to manage it.

n) Youth Chairman OPEN

o) At Large Director Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ

Request to drop quarterly 10m net on 28.364.

p) At Large Director Tadd Torborg KA2DEW

The next New Ham meeting will focus on building quarter wave ground planes.

q) At Large Director Ryan Reed N7RYN

Nothing to report

r) Past President Fin Gold NC4FG

Updated the RARS Classified page in the EXciter.

8) Adjournment

President O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion being made and seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Kurland KR4BTW, Acting RARS Secretary

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes

January 13, 2026, 7:30 PM

1. Call to Order and Welcome – President Tony O’Connor K1OC called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He reminded participants of a few tips about using Zoom.
2. Opening Comments - Tony O’Connor K1OC

Upcoming events:

- i. RARS Dinner - Tuesday, January 20
 - ii. The Gathering -Tuesday, January 27, which will have VE testing.
 - iii. Board Meeting - February 3
 - iv. Allen AB40Z is no longer able to run the 10-Meter Net, which would normally be this Saturday. If anyone wants to take over net control responsibilities for it, please let President O’Connor know.
 - v. ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) - Marty W4MY is in need of a co-chair.
3. President O'Connor recognized three visitors and one new member.

4. Vice President’s Report or announcements – Chuck Till K4RGN

Chuck announced that our February program speaker will be Tadd Torborg KA2DEW on the NC QSO Party station plans. The March program speaker will be Nancy Torborg on RARS-*fest* 2026. Chuck also reminded us that RARS is an ARRL Special Service club and that there is an election for NC Section Manager. ARRL members should have received a ballot in the mail.

5. Secretary’s Report or announcements – Josh Kurland KR4BTW

The minutes are up to date.

6. Treasurer’s Report or announcements – Greg Seamster KE4PAX

There are 508 voting members and 522 total members.

RARS General Membership Meeting minutes continued

7. Specific Announcements or Reports from Directors

- a) Nancy Torborg KB2TNR - RARSfest Tickets. Tickets will go on sale January 30th and there is a great lineup of dealers.
- b) Tadd Torborg KA2DEW. Tadd reported another great New Ham meeting for January building quarter wave ground plane antennas. RARS has been hosting a New Ham meeting for eleven years and counting! The tools used in the New Ham meeting will also be available at the monthly Gatherings for any who wish to participate.
- c) Tom Lewis N4TL. Please inform Tom if you see any errors or mistakes in the EXciter.
- d) Marty Young W4MY. Marty announced the date for the NC QSO party will be Sunday March 1st. He requests that everyone get on the air!

8. Quorum Call: in-person + Zoom: President O'Connor asked standing secretary Josh Kurland whether a quorum was achieved, and he confirmed that there was a quorum (and two lost Coin collectors!).

9. Approval of Club Meeting Minutes: President O'asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the RARS meetings for December 2025. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

10. Door Prize Drawing - Tony O'Connor K1OC

President O'Connor supervised the drawing of tickets for three door prizes. The prizes were a Baofeng HT, the ARRL Antenna Handbook 24th Edition and the six volume 2021 ARRL handbook. The winners were: Richard Kroeger N1FUA, Tadd Torborg KA2DEW and Jackson Wood.

11. VP Chuck Till, K4RGN to introduce the program,

RARS Education Developments

Presented by Brad Bazemore KK4PWJ

12. Following the program President Elect O'Connor asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Kurland KR4BTW, RARS Acting Secretary

RARS Supports Historic ISS-Conn Magnet Contact that Almost Didn't Happen

by Mike Nutt K3LOE

On Friday January 30, 2026, Conn Magnet Elementary students in Raleigh became the first in the universe to make a scheduled amateur radio contact on the International Space Station with astronaut Chris Williams KJ5GEW. John Brier K4EB led a squad of RARS volunteers in a successful, multifaceted operation that survived several significant challenges to deliver one of the most unlikely contacts in history.

Preparing for CONNtact

RARS members helped with many technical aspects of the operation, starting months before Williams' voice filled the cafeteria with joy. The seeds were planted in 2018 when [John Brier K4EB and others did a direct ARISS \(Amateur Radio on the International Space Station\) contact with Moore Square Magnet Middle School](#). Brier worked with Joshua Hunter, then a science teacher there, and Mark Hammond N8MH, an AMSAT vice president, who provided equipment for the station.

Last year Hunter asked RARS to support another direct contact with a Wake County school. Brier agreed to lead a radio team, but with a twist: instead of disassembling his own station to provide the equipment, RARS would put together a portable station that could be used by any school or community organization.

With the help of former RARS president Carl Davis W8WZ and former RARS youth director Brantley West K4CBW, Brier applied for and [received a \\$14,065 grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\) to assemble a Space Communications Outreach Portable Ground Station](#) (SCOPGS) to support ARISS contacts and other satellite activities. Additional in-kind support came from the Eaton corporation who donated an uninterruptible power supply for the SCOPGS (an ARISS requirement). From ethernet cable to loudspeakers, other hams and parents donated equipment and supplies to complete Conn Magnet's station installation.

Brantley and Conn Magnet parent Mike Nutt K3LOE were on campus November 13, 2025, when school students received a visit from accomplished astronaut and retired NASA Administrator Charles Bolden Jr., sponsored by The Cardinal at North Hills.

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The goal of the event was to display a station that could be used to contact the ISS: an Arrow dual band handheld Yagi-Uda antenna and K4EB's ICOM 9700, the radio that would be used as the backup for the Conn Magnet ISS contact. The equipment turned heads and stopped students in their tracks. When we explained that you could talk to the Space Station with even less gear than that, the students' jaws really dropped.

Brier contributed irreplaceable QSL cards from DX satellite contacts to the display, as well as a signed and framed photograph of astronaut Doug Wheelock. West adeptly used the QSL cards to explain to students the various aspects of amateur radio. Students asked us great questions like, "How do people know what frequencies to use to talk to each other?"

Major General Bolden was friendly, funny and energetic, getting there early and staying late to talk to the kids--not just the adults who came to see him. Unfortunately he declined our offer to take the mic and call CQ. He laughed and said, "Sorry, I let my license expire!" We started to remind him about third-party traffic, but he was already on his way to talk to more students.

Conn Magnet coordinator Dan Gridley orchestrated another entire day (Space Day 2) of space-related activities on December 18 and invited RARS to be part of the action. K4EB led two satellite demonstrations and K3LOE helped students make "contacts" on the Bayleaf repeater. Over the course of the day, Conn Magnet Technology Specialist Caryll Orejola brought each of her classes out to take a turn asking questions to RARS volunteers who were standing by.

Brier and Nutt were struck by how engaged the kids were. They were curious, excited, and a few even slapped their faces with their mouths open when they heard voices come through the ether.

Brier made contacts on both an ISS pass and an RS-44 pass and dozens of students got to watch. The team of students who will be in direct contact with the ISS in January was present for the RS-44 pass and then practiced carefully (more carefully than the other kids) making a "contact" with Lawrence Riley KR4BGL on the Bayleaf repeater and asking him a question to practice for their big day. Stephen Haffley NY4NC and Tadd Torborg KA2DEW fielded lots of questions and Torborg and Tony O'Connor, Jr K1OC provided guidance on the technical planning for the repeater activity.

The Conn Magnet kids thought it was very cool that KR4BGL was only 16. Riley himself is an ARISS success

story: He was in the gym for Centennial Magnet Middle School's ARISS telebridge contact in 2024!

That day at the Conn Magnet ball field, dozens if not hundreds of kids got on the air and heard their first signals from space.

Building the Station and an Unprecedented Space Station Medical Evacuation

As equipment from the ARDC grants started rolling in, the new year brought a new focus on the technical implementation of the plan.

On January 7, the day before we installed our antennas on the roof for a dress rehearsal, we were still waiting to see which of the four American astronauts would be selected for the ARISS contact. On January 8, a half dozen of us arrived to set up the station. Gridley told us that [a spacewalk had been postponed because of a "medical situation"](#) and that a medical evacuation was possible.

We continued to work diligently, trying not to think about the worst case scenario. Our dress rehearsal was Friday, January 9 and we needed to have the equipment working no matter what happened in space over the next 24 hours.

With the assistance of Gridley and Conn Magnet custodian Raul Valladares, the radio team went up and down the ladder in the boiler room to access the second-floor roof above the cafeteria, where the contact would happen. We installed a 2m/70cm array with Az/El rotator control on a heavy tripod. We draped hundreds of feet of cable over the edge of the roof and snaked them in through the door, including rotator control cables that Tom Lewis N4TL and K4CBW made on site. Our ARISS technical mentor Bob Koepke AA6TB drove in with his grandson Morgan Ditch KO4MSQ, who assembled the backup egg-beater antenna on the roof.

By the end of the day, we had worked for nearly 8 hours on building the station. After we all drove home, [NASA announced](#) that Crew 11 would be coming home immediately, the first such evacuation in history.

This left Chris Williams KJ5GEW as the lone American on board. ARISS USA Executive Director Frank Bauer told those schools with scheduled contacts, "We need to be patient and let all that is happening play out with respect to the ISS crew health and the Space Agency's plans for crew return. Yes, we will only have one astronaut to communicate with and that could impact our school schedule." Williams had never made an ARISS contact before.

On January 14, ARISS announced they would proceed with only one of the previously scheduled contacts during the January 26th week. There had been three. A European contact elected to postpone their event, so then it was down to Conn Magnet and a contact in the state of Georgia. Nutt tagged ARISS on social media pictures of our roof installation to try to get their attention and demonstrate our readiness.

For five tense days, we waited for news and on January 19, we finally learned that our contact was going to happen. Conn Magnet would be the only public school and only elementary school that was selected by ARISS to have a *direct* contact this spring. Our contact would happen, but two days later than originally planned. That delay turned out to be a boon when an ice storm clobbered the southeast on January 25. The date of our original contact, January 28, turned into a virtual learning day because of the black ice that remained on the streets in many parts of the county. Thankfully, we did not have to decide whether we could go forward with the contact under such conditions.

As the weather reports rolled in, K4EB climbed onto the roof again to cover the tripods with tarps. The antennas were weatherproof, but the tripods had steel components that could rust. Gridley sent us pictures of the roof after the storm. The antennas survived with no damage and minimal ice.

The radio team returned to campus Thursday, January 29th to prepare the station for the contact, connecting all the equipment, positioning and calibrating the antennas, and testing the many livestream and audio connections being managed by Devin Hedge KN4FVH. Nutt worked to break free coax trapped in ice on the shady parts of the school roof. The Az/El rotator was controlling the M2 LEO Pack 2m/70cm antenna array and K4EB made a few satellite contacts to test. Everything was ready.

But then we learned of another set-back. Wake County schools would be on a two-hour delay on the 30th. The dozen students who had been practicing their questions would come to the cafeteria with their families and the Conn Magnet faculty, but the combo cafeteria/auditorium would not be full of 650 children. Parents frantically texted Gridley and Nutt to see if there was some way to sneak in their children. They would have to watch the livestream from home.

QSL, NA1SS

The RARS team arrived Friday morning, January 30, and made the final connections and preparations. The parents, teachers and invited guests started to arrive. We assumed our operating positions behind tables facing the audience, with an enormous glass wall behind us. Hedge perched behind an ingenious home-brew scaffolding-stand full of equipment near the camera and projector he'd set up.

The program included remarks by Wake superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Mo Green, and Jim Scarborough KE4ROH. N4TL grabbed the mic to explain the ISS path being displayed on a large screen to the side.

It was finally time to line up the kids in front of the tables. Josh Hunter was in charge of holding the mic and operating the PTT button, using an extension cord from the 9700 with a lavalier mic duct taped to the top for room audio.

The Acquisition of Signal time approached. And passed. And Brier kept calling, “NA1SS, this is K4EB for a scheduled contact.” There was no clear response, maybe a signal buried deep in the static. For a couple stressful minutes, it was unclear if the contact would happen after all our preparation!

Hammond signaled to Brier that Williams was audible on the eggbeater and backup 9700. N8MH actually initiated the contact as K4EB tried to troubleshoot the problem and the students asked their questions on the backup radio system, requiring us to switch audio input cables live. K4EB determined the automatic Az/EI control failed right before the contact and had to be controlled manually. There was some inaccuracy with manual tracking so the signal didn't come in on the main system at the beginning. Those first questions for Williams were not heard in the room but could be heard online.

Eventually the primary radio started getting the signal stronger than the backup and we returned to the primary radio and antenna until Loss of Signal. By then, Chris Williams’ voice was loud and clear in the cafeteria. Relief flooded through us: it was happening.

If it was KI5GEW’s first time making an ARISS contact, you could not tell. He was enthusiastic and genuine and spoke as if he was in the room with the children. At the end of the call, he said it made his day and that the contact had made him homesick for his own children.

As K4EB gave his last 73 to end the contact, we looked up at the audience and saw several wiping tears away from their eyes. The natural, medical, and technical difficulties we faced had not been lost on the parents and teachers in attendance. They were tears of joy. They had just witnessed one of the most amazing feats in the universe, and it almost didn’t happen three times.

In the [ABC11 news story](#), one teacher’s child reported she “learned that it’s possible to speak to astronauts at a school.” A third grader who later asked for a tour of the station equipment told the reporter in a moment of catharsis, “This is awesome! This is like a bazillion percent times 90 thousand bazillion!”

...

After the contact and milling around congratulating each other, the roof crew, anchored by West and his scout's mind for knots, climbed the boiler room ladder once more. We used K4EB's bucket of thick arborist rope to lower the antennas, tripods, rotators, pre-amps, sandbags, custom foam cases, and yards and yards of coax. We packed the equipment away, staged it, and loaded it into vehicles.

Joshua Hunter, once a science teacher and now the Senior Administrator, Magnet & Curriculum Enhancement Programs and our WCPSS champion, treated us to pizza after the contact. Gridley led us to a nook under the staircase where we celebrated our successful contact together.

Nutt asked Hedge how he felt about it all. He shared a personal note that he made just after the contact: "My body hates me. (Long covid), and yet there still isn't anything I would trade for that moment of hearing Astronaut Chris Williams' voice crack through the airwaves and the room breaking out in a roar of joy!"

As we ate together, Nutt mentioned to Gridley that there wouldn't *be* an International Space Station for students to contact in a few years. He said, "I know, that's why we're going to try to do this again in four years before the splash down!" He whisked K3LOE off to see the supplies ARISS had donated: monitors, electronics kits, antennas, Morse Code equipment, software, etc. He explained that in four years Conn Magnet will have a more robust program to entice the ARISS selectors again. This was just the beginning: "We will continue our radio waves journey!"

RARS will be with them to ride the waves!

[Click here to see more links, pictures and information from Conn Magnet's blog about the contact.](#)

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station



A promotional image used by ARISS to promote the contact on social media



Conn Elementary opened in central Raleigh in 1955. A new building on the same site opened 2021. Conn Magnet has an entrepreneurial design theme, and has been named a National Magnet Schools of America "School of Excellence" and "School of Distinction."



The primary and backup satellite antennas were on the roof directly above the cafeteria where the contacts were made.

Setting up antennas on the roof



Tom Lewis, N4TL; Brantley West, III, K4CBW; Morgan Ditch, KO4MSQ;
Dan Gridley; Raul - Maintenance

The names under all pictures
are Left to right.



Robby Blyth; John Brier, K4EB



Morgan Ditch, KO4MSQ



Morgan Ditch, KO4MSQ; Dan Gridley

Setting up antennas on the roof



Mark Hammond, N8MH ; John Brier, K4EB



Mike Nutt, K3LOE



John Brier, K4EB



John Brier, K4EB; Carl Davis, W8WZ; Devin Hedge, KN4FVH; Brantley West, III, K4CBW;
Morgan Ditch, KO4MSQ; Mike Nutt, K3LOE

Making cable connections and setting things up.



Brantley West, III, K4CBW & Tom Lewis, N4TL, putting connectors on cables



John Brier, K4EB, checking the radio



CSN Technologies S.A.T. device to track satellites, control the antenna directions and move the radio frequency to account for Doppler shift.

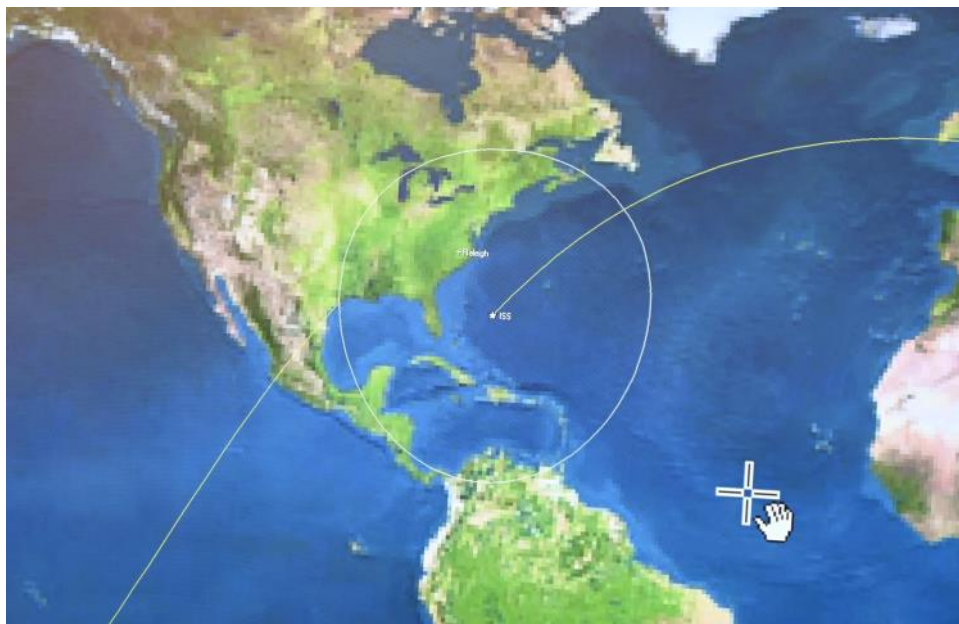


Devin Hedge, KN4FVH setting up the audio video equipment

Getting everything ready



Morgan Ditch, KO4MSQ; John Brier, K4EB; and others checking things out



Ground track of the ISS during the event

Our workers and NC State students



Robert Koepke, AA6TP;
Brantley West, III, K4CBW.



Colin Mount, KQ4FZH (Red shirt);
Dalton Scism, W4WXL



Joshua Hunter, Senior Administrator, STEM-Magnet Curriculum; Dan Gridley, Conn Magnet Coordinator; Mark Hammond, N8MH, AMSAT Board and VP operations; Daniel L'Hommedieu, KD4UNX; John Brier, K4EB, Lead radio operator for the event; Mike Nutt, K3LOE; Carl Davis, W8WZ.

Introductions



Dr Mo Green the state superintendent of public education

Dr Robert Taylor, superintendent of wake county public schools



Dr Robert Taylor, superintendent of wake county public schools



Jim Scarborough, KE4ROH



Dan Gridley,
Conn Magnet school Coordinator



Dr Robert Taylor, superintendent of wake county public schools
Mr. Michael Warholik, Assistant Principal, Conn Magnet Elementary School
Dr Mo Green the state superintendent of public education



Mark Hammond, N8MH, AMSAT Board and VP operations
John Brier, K4EB, Lead radio operator for the event
Mike Nutt, K3LOE, controlling the audio mixer



Students in a queue waiting to ask their question

Making contact and students asking questions



Student; Dan Gridley; Joshua Hunter; John Brier, K4EB; Mike Nutt, K3LOE



Dr Robert Taylor, superintendent of wake county public schools

Dr Mo Green the state superintendent of public education

Mr. Michael Warholik, Assistant Principal, Conn Magnet Elementary School

Dan Gridley, Conn Magnet Coordinator

With the students who asked questions on the radio

In the background is John Brier, K4EB, and Jim Scarborough, KE4ROH